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United States Department of State

Under Secretary of State
for Global Affairs

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May 13, 1994

TO: The Secretary

FROM: C - Timothy E. Wirth

RELEASED IN FULL

SUBJECT: May 9 - May 13, 1994

The University of Colorado Law School celebrates its centennial this year. I addressed the graduating class on Friday. I was invited to speak as well to the Denver Forum--a group that includes business, media and other opinion leaders--about global issues and foreign policy.

On Thursday, I gave the keynote speech to this year's annual meeting of the American Wind Energy Association. Wind energy is rapidly approaching fossil fuel prices, and is becoming an important element in national and international strategies to limit greenhouse gas emissions. My audience in this case consisted of more than 1000 businessmen and experts.

Population, Refugees and Migration

RP is developing and drafting a plan to screen and process Haitians interdicted at sea, in accordance with last week's decision to look for alternatives to direct refugee repatriation. U.K. willingness to discuss our establishing a facility in the Turks and Caicos Islands, or placing a chartered commercial vessel in a harbor there, is very helpful. We have encouraged early HMG talks with local Turks and Caicos authorities, a key next step.

In her talks in Washington this week, the UNHCR's Ogata expressed support for our new approach. She told the President on Thursday that a UNHCR advisory role is possible. She will meet with Bill Gray next week to discuss UNHCR's role in an appropriate response to the migration issue. However, the NSC's call for a program in place within two weeks of the president's announcement is unrealistic. June 1 appears the earliest a new facility can be ready; July 1 is more likely.

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The USAF has begun airlifting relief supplies destined for Rwandan refugees from Turkey to Tanzania. A second airlift of UNHCR trucks from Dubai to Tanzania will begin as soon as the first airlift is completed.

Oceans, Environment and Science

OES joined EPA and Energy's Hazel O'Leary in testimony this week on climate issues. Senators attending included Wallop and Craig on the Republican side, both of whom accused the administration of putting international concerns before America's energy security, and Murkowski, who asked why we do not do more with nuclear energy. Democrats attending included Johnston, Bingaman (very interested in what we are doing with China re climate) and Akaka (very interested in Hawaiian access to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve).

Canadian officials briefed OES on pending legislation that would authorize "custodial enforcement" of fisheries beyond Canada's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Such authority would exceed that permitted to coastal states under the LOS convention. Four New Bedford boats are reported en route to fishing banks outside the Canadian EEZ off Newfoundland; the U.S. has no legal authority to interfere with such vessels.

Hot-spring dwelling microbes in Yellowstone are creating a new western gold rush. One such microbe is the basis for the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), the revolutionary gene-copying technique that has earned hundreds of millions for Switzerland's Hoffman-LaRoche. The economic potential of these heat loving microbes and viruses is enormous and Yellowstone is becoming a focus for biotech research. Will the National Park Service--which has not yet charged for research rights--soon be charged with a giveaway or, if fees are charged, with sullyng Yellowstone's non-commercial image?

Human Rights, Democracy and Labor

Members of the U.N. Human Rights Commission must respond by Monday to a Canadian request for a special session on Rwanda (likely to take place in Geneva on May 20 or May 24). HA is drafting elements of a resolution that would condemn the killings, establish a Special Rapporteur, and call for human rights monitors. U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Ayala Lasso is now in Rwanda following his meeting with John Shattuck in Geneva earlier this week; Ayala Lasso's report will help shape the agenda for the special session.

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An HA officer just completed a two week visit to Haiti to look at the human rights situation. He reports, after interviewing some 80 repatriates, no concrete evidence of persecution arising from their attempted flight, but a marked deterioration of the human rights situation.

Narcotics and Crime

The Chinese would-be migrants and crew intercepted aboard the Jin Yinn arrived safely in China from Guatemala on Sunday. The Taiwan captain and crew members were separately returned to Taipei where they will be tried. The International Organization for Migration coordinated the flights and Taiwan paid all expenses incurred once the migrants reached Guatemala. No bona fide refugees were found among the migrants.

Next Week's Agenda

- o On Tuesday, I will meet with Jean de Courten, ICRC Director of Operations. The ICRC is currently the only organization working inside Rwanda to provide humanitarian assistance.
- o At his request, I will meet on Thursday with Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Sergio Marchi. Marchi is visiting Washington to meet with counterparts for the first time.
- o The U.N.'s Committee on Sustainable Development will meet in New York, May 16 - 27. In addition to a review of Agenda 21, the Rio Conference action plan, the Committee will make decisions on next steps for international discussions related to global forests and non-WTO trade and environment issues.
- o Acting S/CT coordinator Barbara Bodine will represent the U.S. at a G-7 counterterrorism experts meeting May 17-18 in Rome. The agenda addresses trends in terrorism, e.g. Serbian/Bosnian threats, activities of the PKK, Islamic extremism, and reactions to the Israeli-PLO accord. The group will also discuss dealings with state sponsors such as Iran and Libya, Latin American terrorism and, at our suggestion, the terrorist threat to democracies.

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